

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm, remotely as authorized by the Opens Meeting Act (MCL 15.263a).

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bachman, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Jermaine Sullivan (Cipic), Michael Szymanski, James Grabowski, and Erin Martin Pontiac

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Department Directors, and Public

Public Comments:

None

DISCUSSION ON NEW PROCESS FOR REDISTRICTING IN MICHIGAN – Rhonda Lange of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) led a discussion on Michigan’s new redistricting process. The passage of Proposal 2 in 2018 requires voters, not legislators, to take responsibility for nonpartisan redistricting of the state and created the MICRC. Ms. Lange encouraged Council and all Michigan voters to provide input regarding potential redistricting plans at any of the upcoming 10 public hearings being held throughout Michigan.

DISCUSSION ON MANISTEE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL’S BOND PROPOSAL – Superintendent Ronald Stoneman and MAPS Board of Education President Jim Thompson led a discussion on the school bond proposal being presented to voters at the May 2021 election. Discussion included:

- Project history
- Vision for students, teachers and the future
 - MMHS – secure entry, middle school gym & lockers, door updates, partial roof replacement, track storage
 - Demolition of Jefferson School and possible uses/plan for the property
 - Kennedy School – demolition of 1927 building, secure entry, updates to meet educational standards, parking improvements, updated pick-up/drop-off areas
 - Madison School – relocate MAPS central office, mechanical updates, roof replacement

- Financial impact of the project and costs, 2.65 mil increase
- Importance of providing quality education and facilities
- Comparisons to surrounding communities
- Plan B alternatives if the millage request does not pass

OTHER:

Szymanski announced that the Manistee Recreation Association launched their new website which offers online registration for all activities.

Zielinski reminded councilmembers and residents of the special council meeting being held Thursday, March 11, 2021, 6:00 pm. at the Ramsdell Theatre.

Adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Y Laurain
Deputy Clerk

Heather Pefley MiPMC/CMC
City Clerk